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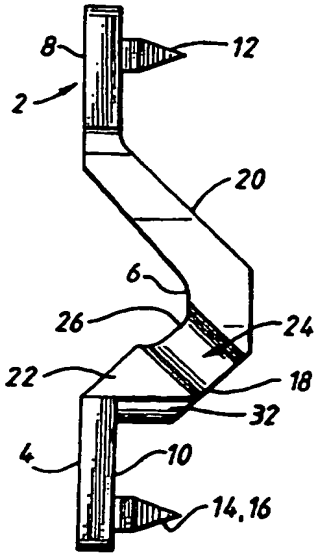
(54) Abstract Title
A locating anchor

(57) A locating anchor for a replacement ligament is described. The anchor comprises a bar which is operable to extend across the opening of a bone tunnel through which the replacement ligament passes. The bar has a number of characterising features. The bar may not include any lateral support, the bar may be recessed, the bar may have a fixing groove, preferably, for ligament sutures or fixing means may be provided at each end of the bar to fix the ends of the bar in the bone surrounding the tunnel opening. A method of fixation is also defined. The bar is particularly useful in avoiding hindrance to the surgeon caused by the necessity to thread sutures through the fixation device.

FIG. 1a



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At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

This print incorporates corrections made under Section 117(1) of the Patents Act 1977.

FIG. 1b

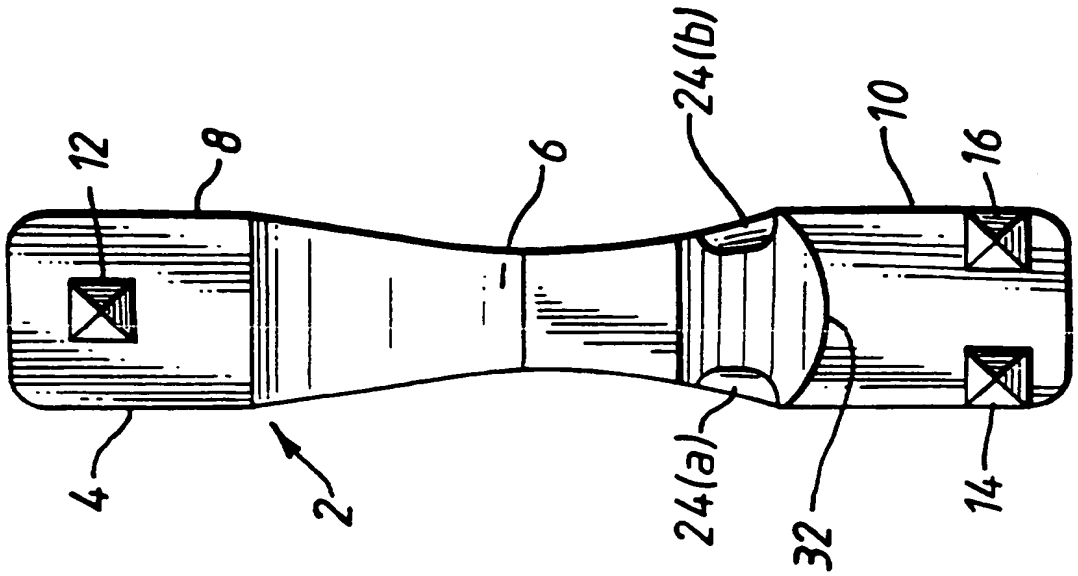
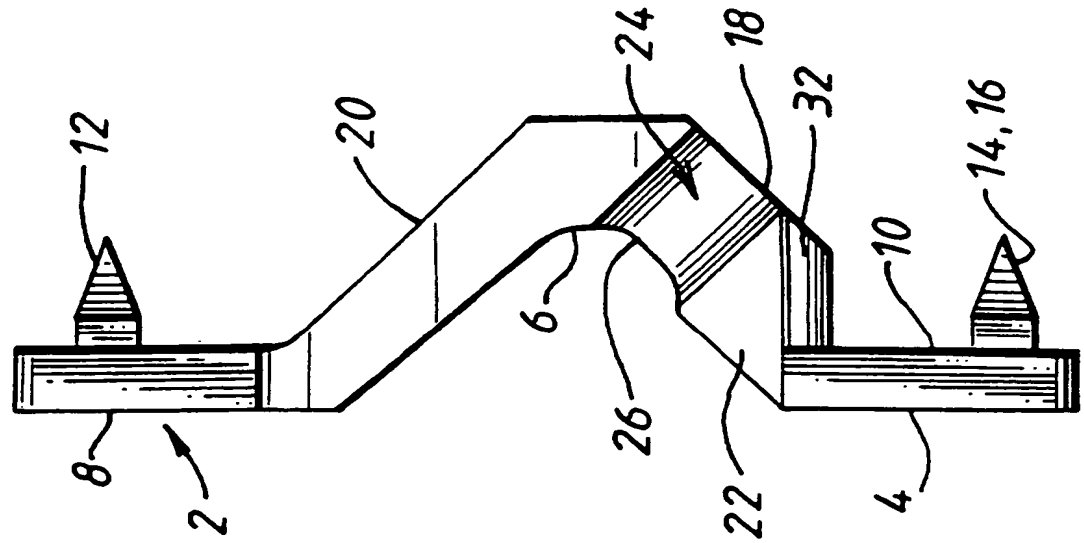


FIG. 1a



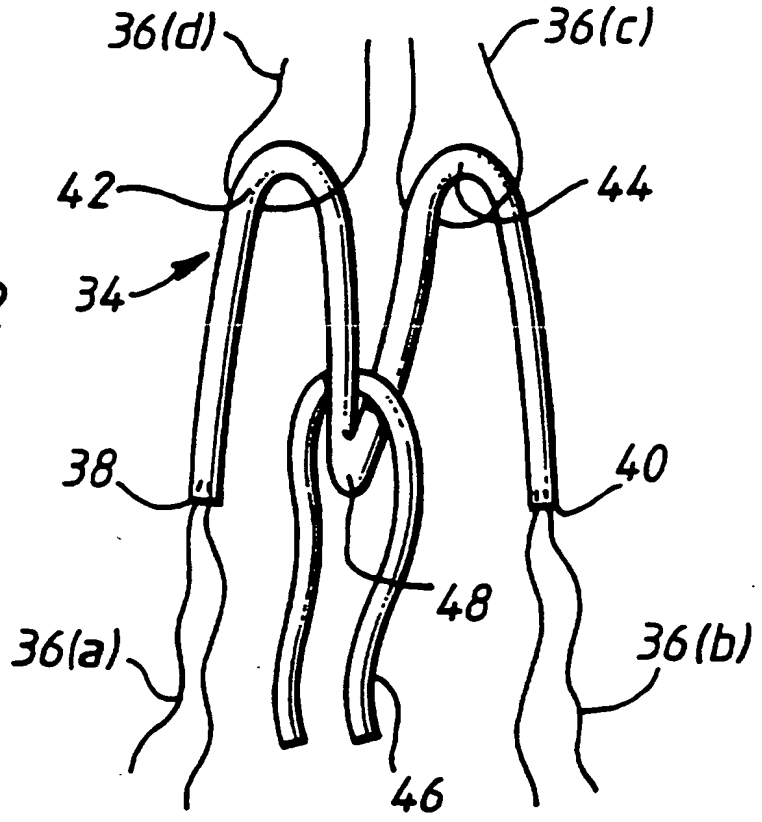


FIG. 2

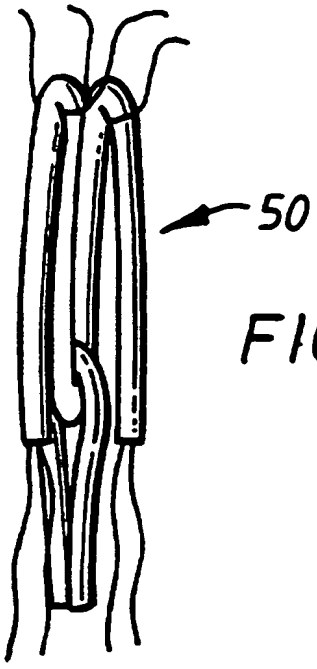


FIG. 3

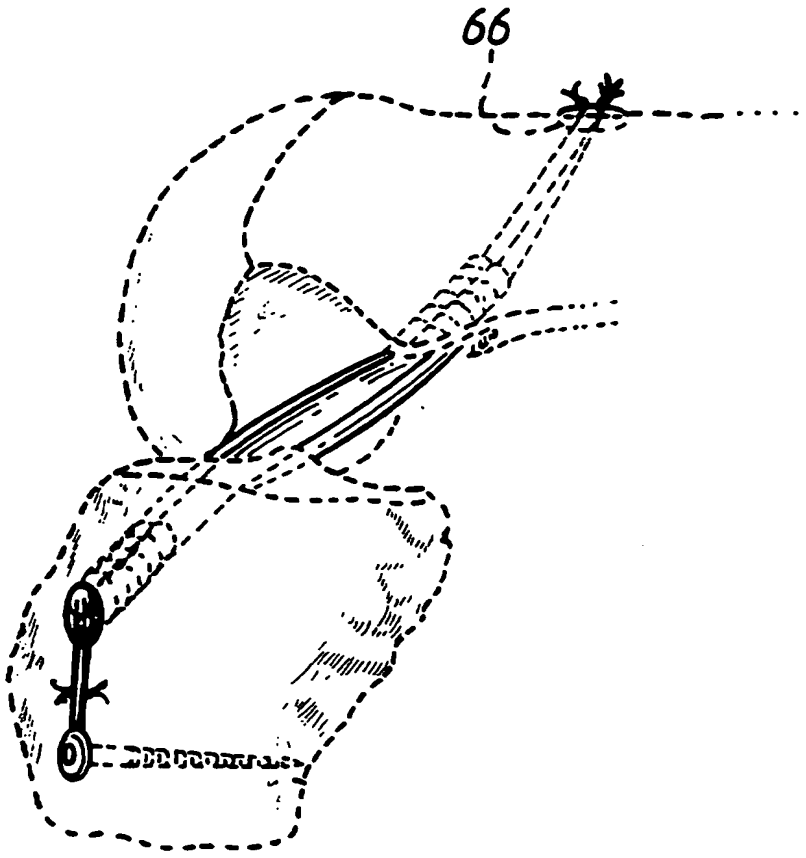


FIG. 4
(PRIOR ART)

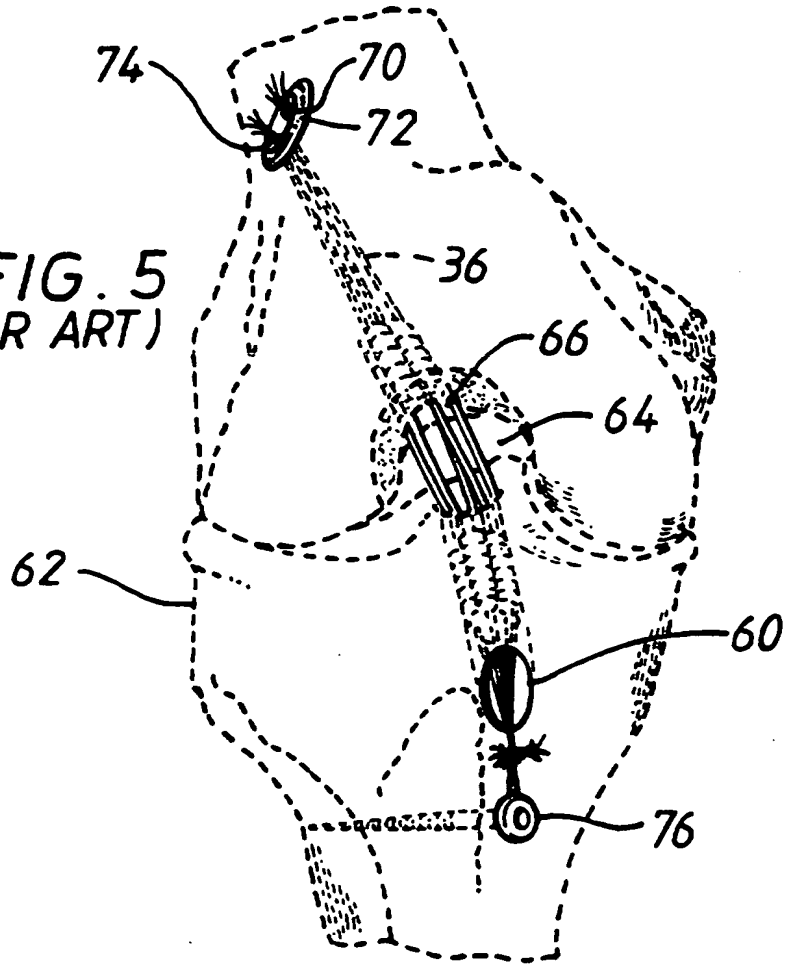


FIG. 5
(PRIOR ART)

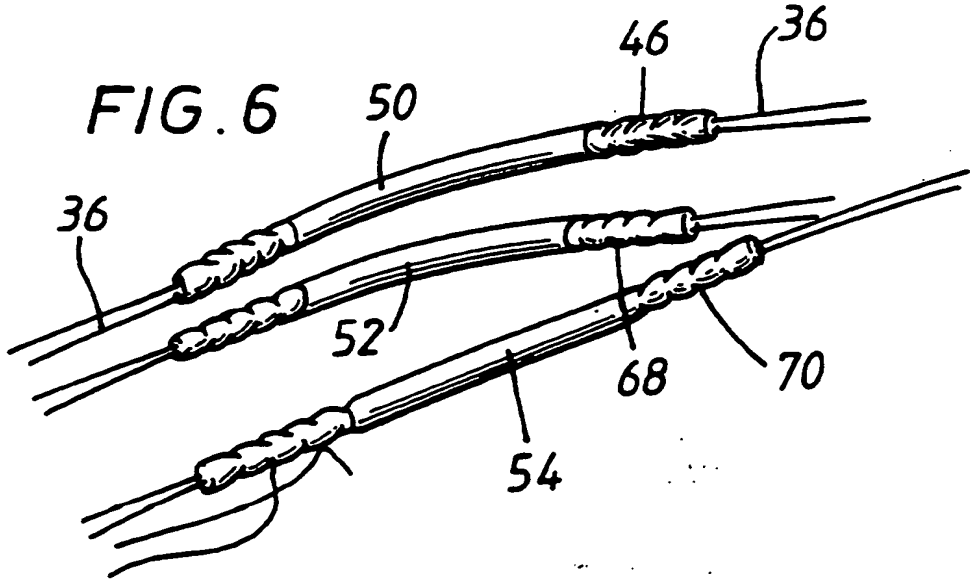
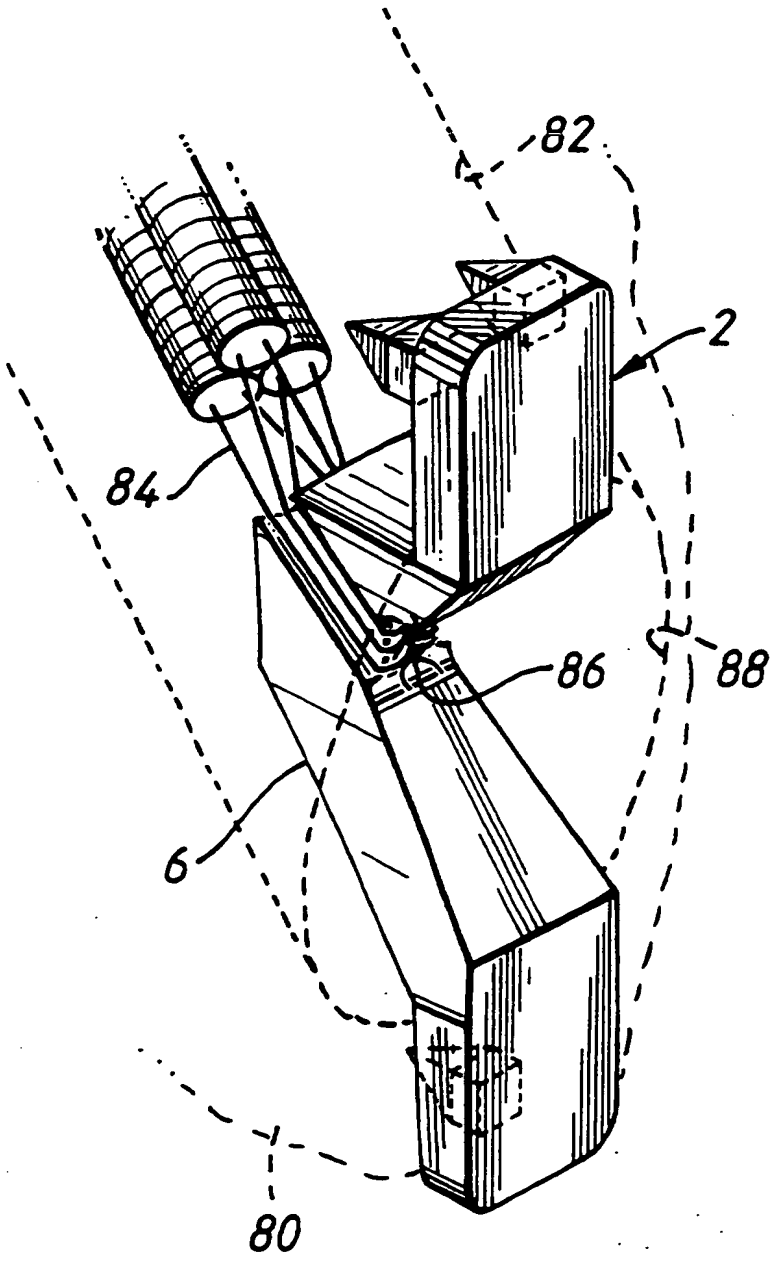


FIG. 6

FIG. 7



A LOCATING ANCHOR

The present invention relates to a locating anchor for a replacement ligament.

Ligament damage and subsequent replacement is becoming an increasingly important issue facing modern surgeons. Modern sport and leisure activities are becoming an increasingly important aspect of daily life and modern sports demand an increasing level of fitness from its participants. Forces applied to knee ligaments, particularly the Anterior Cruciate (ACL) and Posterior Cruciate (PCL) ligaments, and particularly in active sports result in a high and increasing incidence of ligament injuries.

A number of techniques have been made available to replace damaged ligaments. One technique involves the removal of a graft comprising existing bone-tendon-bone, for example, a dissected section comprising the middle third of patellar tendon and the part of the bony insertion at each end of this tendon which is then used to replace the damaged ligament. The method of replacement involves the drilling of a tunnel, in the case of an ACL ligament, in each of the femur and the tibia into which the bone blocks are fixed, the tendinous part of the graft forming the replacement ligament across the inside of the knee joint.

Commonly the fixation of the bone blocks in the two tunnels is achieved by use of Titanium Screws which pass alongside the bone blocks, thereby producing an "Interference" fit.

The use of the Bone-tendon-bone with interference screw fixation is the most commonly employed method of ACL reconstruction. Unfortunately the